

COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

April 12, 2021

What is the Academic Reference Group?

The Academic Reference Group is made up of educators and representatives of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) who share information and collaborate on nursing regulatory issues of mutual interest and concern.

The group includes nine Ontario nursing educators who have volunteered to represent all nursing programs in the province.

The goal of the group is to provide an opportunity for discussion and collaboration on regulatory issues of importance to both educators and the College of Nurses of Ontario.

Welcome

Anne Marie shared that CNO's new Manager of Education, Katie Dilworth, will be assuming the role of chair. Angela McNabb, the new Team Lead, Education, was introduced.

Pandemic Check-in

The group engaged in a discussion about the impact of the pandemic on nursing education. Themes discussed included: challenges with clinical placement (but appreciative of the support of organizations continuing to facilitate placements); clinical experiences being delayed resulting in graduations being staggered and students finishing at different times; and virtual programs being used to support learning. Also noted, support for student mental health has increased due to the impact of the pandemic and acuity patient status in placements.

Indicator 8 and 9

Indicator 8 and 9 data collection resumed in Feb. 2021. The group was reminded to please send preceptorship/consolidation information spreadsheets to [Sean Knight](#).

Standalone Degrees

A number of schools have expressed interest in developing new nursing programs. Any academic institution wishing to offer a new baccalaureate nursing program must receive preliminary approval from CNO, in addition to meeting Ministry's requirements. Interested schools were reminded to submit their written intention to [Katie Dilworth](#) at least one year in advance of the program(s) anticipated start date.

Modernizing CNO's Application Process

CNO has started a comprehensive review of application processes. The goal of this review is to make our assessment practices more efficient and reduce the time it takes qualified applicants to become eligible to register in Ontario. We are engaging in work this year to update our policies related to four registration requirements: education, evidence of practice, language proficiency and police criminal record check.

In addition, CNO will be engaging with the academic sector to develop courses for applicants who have had gaps identified in their nursing education. For more information, please contact [Program Approval](#).

GROUP MEMBERS

We encourage you to share your feedback with any member of the Academic Reference Group:

Sandra DeLuca
Fanshawe College, Western University

Laura Gedcke-Kerr
Queen's University

Sylvie Larocque
Laurentian University/Université Laurentienne

Kumaran Mahathevan
Centennial College

Paula Mastrilli
George Brown College

Mary McGrory
Humber Institute of Technology & Advance Learning

Linda Patrick
University of Windsor

Karen Poole
Lakehead University

Katherine Tripp
University of Toronto

Anne Marie Shin
College of Nurses of Ontario

Katie Dilworth
College of Nurses of Ontario

On March 4, 2021, Council approved that Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) applying for registration as an RN will be considered to have met the education requirement if they passed the NCLEX-RN exam on or after Jan. 1, 2015. Passing the exam will serve as evidence that an applicant has demonstrated the required entry-level nursing knowledge, skill and judgment to meet the nursing education requirement. [Learn](#) more.

Quality Assurance

On April 8, CNO's new [Quality Assurance \(QA\)](#) content was launched, including new self-assessment tools and a new Learning Plan. The program will continue to evolve with more new tools being added next year. CNO would appreciate feedback on the content. Please send your comments to QAassessment@cnomail.org.

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

On March 17, 2021, the senate passed Bill C-7, resulting in changes to requirements related to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) under the *Criminal Code*. CNO has collaborated with stakeholders and [updated resources](#), including our [guidance document](#), to support safe nursing practice. A recording of CNO's recent MAID webinar will be posted on May 7. The group was also reminded that NP students do not have the authority to perform MAID eligibility assessments.

NP One

Work continues on moving toward generalist registration for NPs. A national subcommittee has been formed to oversee development of competencies. Please see the [CCRN website](#) for details.

RPN Initiation

The new regulation has not yet been enacted by government and, therefore, RPNs do not yet have the authority to initiate additional controlled acts. We will share information when it is available.

Terms of Reference

Terms of reference for the Academic Advisory are under review. A draft will be shared at the next meeting. The group provided input on suggested changes.

Next meeting

Monday June 21, 2021, 0930-1130 hrs.

Please share this update with other nursing educators at your school.